

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Susan DeSack, Chairperson and Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Student Member Raymond Moore were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar was absent.

ORDER – Clerk Coutcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – Kevin Fraser – Coach of the Year – Superintendent Geismar advised that due to an unforeseen work-related obligation, Soccer Coach Kevin Fraser was unable to attend tonight's meeting. However, Assistant Coach Steve Marmas will accept on Coach Fraser's behalf. This recognition will be placed

on hold until Coach Marmas arrives.

Town Sergeant Richard Brown and Constable Scote Miller – This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

2010 RI Scholastic Art and Writing Award Recipients – Superintendent Geismar acknowledged the art award recipients and art teachers Elizabeth Lind and Nicole Pichette. He gave a brief overview of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Scholastic Art Awards Program and explained that the top 200 pieces are awarded Gold and Silver Key Awards, and additional recognition was given to seniors for their Fine Art Portfolios. All Gold Key artworks are forwarded to New York for national adjudication. The artwork will then compete within its category against students across the United States. Judging took place Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Salve Regina University and four EWG students received awards. Rob Prashaw received a Silver Key Award – Ceramics & Glass; Sarah Swift received a Silver Key Award – Painting; Megan Bresnahan received a Gold Key Award – Ceramics & Glass; and Georgia Ward received two Gold Key Awards – Mixed Media and Portfolio. On behalf of the School Committee, Clerk Coutcher presented each student with a recognition award and gift card. Elizabeth Lind pointed out that there were only 12 Portfolio Awards given at the competition. She expressed sincere thanks to the School Committee for supporting EWG's art program and her department.

Denise Sherman – National Board Certified Teacher – Superintendent Geismar recognized Denise Sherman who recently attained National Board Certification. He gave

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a brief overview of this very rigorous, voluntary assessment program that typically takes one to three years to complete. Dr. Geismar congratulated Ms. Sherman on her wonderful success and told her that the District is proud of her. On behalf of the School Committee, Clerk Coutcher presented Ms. Sherman with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

Kevin Fraser – Coach of the Year – Superintendent Geismar said that this year's Girls' Soccer Team did a great job finishing the season with nine wins, three losses, and four draws. The team ended the season as Division II runner-up. This was the first Girls' Soccer Team from EWG to make it into the Championship Game. Dr. Geismar said every good team needs good coaching and Coach Fraser is the best. At the December 2009 Girls' All State All Division Soccer Banquet, Kevin Fraser was honored by his peers with the RI Girls' Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year Award. On behalf of the School Committee, Dr. Geismar offered congratulations to Coach Fraser, Coach Marmas, and the players. On behalf of the School Committee, Clerk Coutcher presented a School Committee Apple Recognition Award to Coach Fraser. Coach Marmas accepted the

award on Coach Fraser's behalf.

After a brief refreshment break, the School Committee resumed its meeting, (7:30 p.m.).

Presentation – Student Member Report – Student Member Raymond Moore offered congratulations to the Scholastic Art Award winners. He reported that it is exam time and many seniors are exempt from taking exams because their end-of-the-year grade is “A”.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Dr. Geismar answered Member Bollengier's clarifying question regarding Bills.

Member Rafanelli made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 12, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

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7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$373,175.32

D. Home School Approvals

1. ANDREWS - Adam

End Consent Agenda

Dr. Geismar referenced Correspondence (2) and explained that the February 11, 2010 Joint Meeting date conflicts with the Washington County Regional Planning Council Dinner Meeting. Therefore, Chair DeSack has suggested rescheduling the Joint Meeting to February 16, 2010. Consensus of the School Committee was to reschedule the Joint Meeting to February 16.

Correspondence – (1) December 17, 2009 letter to Dr. Geismar from Exeter Town Sergeant Richard Brown; (2) Budget Workshop Date Reminder; (3) Joint Meeting Date Reminder; (4) NBPTS News Release December 15, 2009

Budget Update 2010 – 2011 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reminded members that the next Budget Workshop meeting is

February 2, 2010. He said that he has been working with the Superintendent and District Treasurer to review the changes to the budget through sufficiencies. He anticipates an additional meeting will be needed following the February 2 workshop. He will take the edits at the conclusion of the February 2 workshop and modify the budget to bring to the February Joint Meeting with the Town Councils. Mr. Ross informed members that he received two requests for information regarding the budget. However, he is reluctant to release information prior to the School Committee receiving it and prior to the February 2 meeting.

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Town Finance/Charter Review Subcommittee –Member Rafanelli informed members that the Town Finance/Charter Review (TFCR) subcommittee met on January 7, 2010. The subcommittee voted to bring five recommendations to the School Committee. For recording purposes, Member Rafanelli read the five motions aloud. He recommended that this item should continue to the next regular meeting agenda for further discussion and/or vote.

(1) After discussion had, by unanimous vote of the committee members present, it was voted that the number of sitting members on the EWGRSD School Committee would be adjusted based on census taken every ten (10) years, starting with the 2010 Census population for change in the 2012 elections for School Committee. The Committee is to remain at seven (7) sitting members, with the Town

having the higher population determined by census having four (4) sitting members on the seven (7) member committee.

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(2) After discussion had, by unanimous vote of the committee members present, it was voted that the budget workbooks be available for circulation to the public and review by the public at all budget workshops and that copies of all budgetary data be provided any member of the voting public for the Towns of Exeter and West Greenwich requesting same. All documents are to be clearly marked as DRAFT copy. All draft documents shall be freely circulated unless the document is designated by the School Committee as for use in contract negotiations.

Members Walsh and Zuercher pointed out that this would be costly. Member Rafanelli explained the intent is not to circulate workbooks; it is to make them available.

(3)After discussion had, by unanimous vote of the committee members present, it was voted to adopt a full-day referendum for voters of the Towns of Exeter and West Greenwich to vote on and adopt the proposed school budget, with modifying language to be

drafted to provide for the contingency that the budget as presented is not adopted by majority vote.

(4) After discussion had, by unanimous vote of the committee members present, it was voted to amend the language of Section XI to allow for amendment to charter pertaining to non-budgetary issues to be presented and voted upon on a full-day referendum for adoption of the budget, with approval obtained by majority vote taken.

(5) After discussion had, by unanimous vote of the committee members present, it was voted to recommend establishment of a Building Committee, following this language:

At such time as necessary repairs or construction are needed in/for the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, for repairs requiring bonding and/or otherwise in the discretion of the School Committee, the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee shall call upon the respective towns of Exeter and West Greenwich for the appointment of an EWG Building Committee. The town councils shall make appointments to the EWG Building Committee within six (6) weeks of the EWGRSD School Committee's call for the EWG Building Committee formation.

The chair of the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee shall call for the first meeting of the EWG Building Committee within four (4) weeks of the appointments made by the member towns. The

Chairperson of the School Committee will act as temporary Chair of the EWG Building Committee until the committee has completed its organization. The selection of officers will include, at the least, the following: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary. The Secretary may be selected from outside of the EWG Building Committee membership.

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The Building Committee to be formed shall consist of eight voting members, four from the Town of Exeter and four from the Town of West Greenwich. Provided, however, that in establishing four members from each town, one member from each town shall be a School Committee member elected to the School Committee from that respective town.

Clerk Coutcher and Members Rafanelli and Bollengier answered members' clarifying questions and offered further details regarding the recommendations put forth to the School Committee for approval by the TFCR subcommittee. Member Rafanelli expressed thanks to those who served on the TFCR subcommittee. He said that he would e-mail the TFCR meeting minutes to all School Committee members before the end of the week. Clerk Coutcher requested this item carry

over to the next meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS – Approve Copy Machine Purchase for Sr. High ALP Program – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced packet enclosure Request for RICOH Copier Lease/Purchase for the Senior High School ALP. Mr. Ross reviewed the current copying services program that the ALP students provide for the senior high teachers. He explained the opportunity presented to the District by the RICOH representative to enter into a co-terminus lease option for a wide-range capacity copy machine. At this point, the ALP students are maxed out in their ability to provide services and consensus is that this machine can enable the ALP copying services program to expand to handle any production needs within the District such as the student handbooks at the junior – senior high and Everyday Math handouts at the elementary level. Additionally, the ALP program perhaps could offer services to the towns or other organizations. Mr. Ross pointed out that students will come away from this experience with a real skill set, as they will essentially be running a business. He offered further explanation and answered members' questions regarding the ALP site center, electrical hookup, and access control. Mr. Ross requested the School Committee approve a 28-month contract term at a cost of \$761.87 per month for the lease/purchase of the RICOH copier as presented.

Member Zuercher made a motion to approve the purchase/lease of the copier for the ALP program. Member Walsh seconded the motion.

Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Motion carries.

Confucius Classroom at SORICO – Superintendent Geismar informed members of an exciting addition at SORICO. The Confucius Classroom is both a stationary and mobile classroom. There will be a classroom at SORICO funded by an international grant and sponsored by the China Institute at Bryant University dedicated to China language and culture. The mobile classroom will bring programs regarding China to schools in the collaborative. Schools can have assemblies and individual class visits. In addition, Chinese language instruction can be made available for students in grades 3 – 8 after school for a \$10 per class fee to be paid by parents. There are eight lessons in a session so the fee for a session is \$80.00. Next year, there will be Chinese language classes offered for high school students at SORICO. It will be a two-year credit-earning program

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that will culminate with a trip to China. There are also plans for programs for adults that will be fee-supported programs involving lectures on Chinese culture, politics, economics, and society. Metcalf and the Jr. High put out the word to see how many kids want to signup. Dr. Geismar said that he would keep members updated as time goes on. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said that the District would offer financial aid to any student unable to participate due to financial hardship.

Consideration, Discussion, and Vote to Change School Committee Meeting(s) Start Time – Superintendent Geismar said he was asked to bring forward the proposal to change the starting time of School Committee meetings to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Geismar recommended the change take place beginning with the first meeting in May 2010 to afford adequate time for public notice of the change. Member Zuercher suggested beginning the change in April, which will permit a two-month notice.

Member Zuercher made a motion to have the School Committee meeting time change to 6:00 p.m. beginning the month of April 2010. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross informed the School Committee about House Bill 7196 – to allow for advertisement on public school buses as a revenue generator for school districts.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar said there is nothing new to report. Work on various punch list items continues. The Building Committee meets tomorrow night to resolve issues with the contractor.

District Treasurer Search – Dr. Geismar reported there were twelve

applicants for the position of District Treasurer. The top four candidates were invited for an interview. Presently, he and Mr. Ross are reviewing whom to invite back for a second interview. Dr. Geismar said that he anticipates bringing a finalist to the School Committee at the next regular meeting.

Reports/Comments –

Important Dates and Meetings –Tuesday, February 2, 2010-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, February 9, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Thursday, February 11, 2010-Joint Meeting; Friday, February 19, 2010-Notice to Canvassers; Tuesday, February 23, 2010-School Committee Meeting

Clerk Coutcher reminded members that the February 11 Joint Meeting will be rescheduled to February 16.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None

Adjournment – Member Zuercher moved to adjourn. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK